

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 OMB-01 AID-05 SCCT-01 IO-10 SAB-01 SAM-01 NIC-01

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R 040638Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2108

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USIA WASHDC

USUN NEW YORK 133

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BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

USIA FOR INA

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, UN, SY, IS

SUBJECT: SYRIAN PRESS ADAMANT ON RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: SARG HAS APPARENTLY GIVEN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED

MEDIA CLEAR MARCHING ORDERS ON HOW TO PLAY ME SITUATION IN

THIS PERIOD IMMEDIATELY AFTER RENEWAL OF UNDOF. THOSE ORDERS

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APPEAR TO BE TO STRESS (1) IMPORTANCE OF EARLY RECONVENING OF

GENEVA CONFERENCE, (2) THAT SC RESOLUTION ON RENEWAL OF UNDOF AND SC RESOLUTION 338 ARE ONE AND INSEPARABLE, IE., CONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE INTEGRAL PART OF PROCESS TOWARD PEACE, AND (3) THAT ISRAEL IS THWARTING IMPLEMENTATION THIS PART OF SC RESOLUTION AND THUS JEAPARDIZING WHOLE FABRIC OF PEACE PROCESS. END SUMMARY.

2. BOTH DAMASCUS DAILIES DECEMBER 3 GIVE PROMINENT PLACEMENT TO STATEMENTS BY ALLON, "GOI SECRETARY-GENERAL," AND MEIA THAT RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE IMPOSSIBLE BEFORE NEXT SPRING OR BEFORE SECRETARY KISSINGER COMPLETES HIS PREPARATIONS ("REQUIRING SEVERAL MONTHS"). AL-BAATH, PARTY NEWSPAPER, MADE TWO POINTS IN ITS HEADLINES: (1) ISRAEL IS FLAUNTING WORLD BY REFUSING TO ACCEPT CLEAR UN RESOLUTIONS ON RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE AND (2) EXTENSION OF UNDOF MANDATE IS "LINKED" TO IMPLEMENTATION OF SC RESOLUTION 338 (WHICH CALLS FOR RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE.)

3. ARTICLE IS UNUSUAL IN THAT IT WRITTEN BY STAFF AND IS NOT COMPILATION OF WIRE SERVICE REPORTS. ITS THEME IS THAT ISRAEL IS TRYING TO SEPARATE OUT OF SC RESOLUTIONS THOSE SECTIONS IT FAVORS AND REDEFINE THOSE WHICH IT OPPOSES. THUS ARTICLE STRESSES THAT SC RESOLUTION 338 AND RESOLUTION TO RENEW UNDOF ARE PART OF SAME AND INDIVISIBLE. IN OTHER WORDS, DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES IS BUT STEP TOWARD TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL; THEREFORE, IF ISRAEL ACCEPTS DISENGAGEMENT, IT MUST ACCEPT TOTAL WITHDRAWAL. IN LIKE MANNER, NECESSITY OF HOLDING GENEVA CONFERENCE IS PART OF RESOLUTIONS. ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT WHEN ISRAEL DIVIDES RESOLUTIONS TO SUIT OWN PURPOSES, IT DESTROYS RESOLUTION AS WHOLE.

4. NEWSPAPER STATES IT NECESSARY FOR SYRIA TO EMPHASIZE ANEW SARG POSITION (1) TO HOLD GENEVA CONFERENCE ASAP, (2) FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORY, AND (3) FOR RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS. "THIS POSITION IS RESULT OF SARG COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL RESOLUTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL WILL AND (SYRIA) WILL NOT PERMIT OTHER PARTY TO PLAY WITH THIS WILL."

5. ATH-THAWRA CONTRASTS UN EFFORTS TO PROMOTE PEACE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH ISRAELI EFFORTS TO CREATE TENSION IN AREA. ARTICLE NOTES THAT AFTER SUCCESSFUL SYRIAN EFFORTS AT RABAT AND AT UN, SARG HAS NOW ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL VICTORY BY LINKING EXTENSION OF UNDOF MANDATE TO RESOLUTION BY SC "PLEDGING SERIOUS WORK TO HOLD GENEVA CONFERENCE RAPIDLY FOR IMPLEMENTING SC RESOLUTION 338." ATH-THAWRA'S NEWS STORY CONTINUES THAT ISRAEL IS TRYING TO HINDER RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE. IT QUOTES ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY

OFFICIAL AS SAYING THAT "WHILE ISRAEL DOES NOT OFFICIALLY FIND ANY SUBSTITUTE FOR GENEVA TALKS, IT PINS ITS HOPES ON STEP-BY-STEP METHOD PRACTICED SO FAR BY KISSINGER." IN OTHER REFERENCES TO US, ARTICLE NOTES PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT TO NEWSWEEK THAT HE FAVORS "STEP-BY-STEP" APPROACH, THAT DEPARTMENT OF STATE SAYS US HAS NO TIME TABLE AT PRESENT TO RECONVENE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND THAT ISRAEL IS NOW ISOLATED "WITH EXCEPTION OF AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR ITS AGGRESSIVE POSITION."

5. COMMENT: DOMINANT THEME THROUGHOUT IS THAT SARG HAS SOMEHOW ACHIEVED ENORMOUS INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS IN LINKING RENEWAL UNDOF MANDATE TO EARLY RESUMPTION OF GENEVA CONFERENCE. SUCH A LINE IS BEING USED PRIMARILY TO JUSTIFY SARG AGREEMENT TO RENEW UNDOF. IT IS PROBABLY ATTEMPT TO REDUCE IMPACT OF CHARGE BY "REJECTIONIST" FRONT THAT SARG HAS EITHER "SOLD OUT" TO US OR OTHERS, OR IS WILLING TO COMPROMISE WITH ISRAELZ. THIS TREATMENT OF ISSUE BY SARG MEDIA MAY ALSO PRESSAGE SYRIAN DIPLOMATIC MOVES TO PUT PRESSURE ON BOTH US AND ISRAEL TO MOVE AHEAD NOT JUST ON EGYPTIAN FRONT OR WEST BANK BUT ON GOLAN AS WELL.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DAMASC02876
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740351-0419
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741262/aaaacazo.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN PRESS ADAMANT ON RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE
TAGS: SOPN, SY, IS, UN, GENEVA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005